

THE FARM.

PROFIT IN SHEEP.

A flock of 50 to 100 sheep, as a rule, will prove profitable on the farm. Good sheep should average from 8 to 12 pounds of wool each and, with the price at 26 to 27 cents a pound, the receipts from that source would be \$2 to \$3 a head. This will pay for the keep, and the returns from the sale of lambs would be clean profit. Fifty to seventy-five lambs should be saved from a flock of fifty ewes, and these, at \$3 to \$5 each, show a profit that is well worth while.

A further benefit derived from a flock of sheep is their propensity to destroy shrubs and weeds, which they eat freely, keeping the pasture clear of these annoyances. Hogs and sheep may be pastured together, except at lambing time and until the lambs are six weeks to two months old. Just before lambing time, and until the ewes and lambs are sent to pasture, the ewes should be fed a liberal allowance of shelled corn, oats and bran. Otherwise they require little feed in winter, and with some shelter will almost live with what they can get from the pasture. The Stroussbre is considered by some the best general-purpose breed, though any standard breed should prove profitable.

PREVENTING POTATOES FROM ROTTING.

German papers publish a method to prevent potatoes in cellars from rotting, states Consul General Guenther of Frankfurt, in a report to the Department of Commerce and Labor. It is claimed, he states, that the potato fungus causes rotting. This fungus, if present on some potatoes in the cellar, spreads to other potatoes and causes rot. A solution of one pound of chloride of lime dissolved in twenty-five gallons of water is used for washing the potatoes by means of a broom. They are then spread out to dry. Through this procedure the spores of the fungus are killed.

One who is poetically inclined, at the same time that he is a good farmer, lets loose as follows in telling of the points that should be looked to in buying a cow:

"She's long in her face and fine in her horn,
She's quickly got fat, without cake or corn,
She's clean in her jaw and full in the chin;
She's heavy in flank and wide in loin,
She's broad in rib and long in rump.
A straight and flat back with never a hump,
She's wide in her hips and calm in her eyes,
She's fine in her shoulders and thin in her thighs;
She's tight in her neck and small in her tail,
She's wide in her breast and good at the pail.
She's fine in her bone and silky of skin,
She's a grazer's without and a butcher's within."

RAISING TOMATOES.

In your issue of January 10, Mr. T. A. Cahill, of Tennessee, who says he is a young farmer, asks for advice on a number of farm crops, among them tomatoes. My experience in raising tomatoes has not been extensive, but I am willing to tell what I know, and if it should be of any value to our young friend, or others, all right.

Tomato culture is neither difficult nor expensive, if intelligently followed. But it is a mistake to think that any soil will raise a good crop of tomatoes or that no work is required. The ground must be dry, with a good rich soil, and the preparation must be thorough—good plowing and good harrow. I find that it pays to put in some extra work in getting the ground ready. Have never used any fertilizer on tomatoes except barnyard manure, but have always been liberal with that, putting in a fork full of well-rotted manure where each plant was to be set.

Don't try to get too many plants in your ground, whether the space is large or small; give plenty of room and you will get a better yield. Four feet each way is about right; less than that will crowd the vines when they are ready to bear.

As soon as the young plants are big enough commence cultivation; in fact, it is a good plan to run a light cultivator or wheel hoe through the rows a few days after setting out, which should be followed by the first hoeing. After that use the cultivator and hoe frequently, once a week, if possible. For most soils shallow and frequent cultivation checks rapid loss of rainfall from the soil, kills

weeds, and helps to admit air to the surface layer of the soil.

I have found two plans beneficial in preparing the vines for fruiting. My general plan is to hill them up or "laying them by," as we call it. Well with the hoe, so that the vines will spread out, the fruit ripen quicker and be more easily gathered. For a large field this is the only practical way, but in smaller patches I have had good results in training the vines on poles. If the material can be easily and cheaply obtained, it is an excellent plan to run a stick or pole along each of the two sides of a row, with sticks, poles or wires crossing between the hills. Or, if one wants to do the job a little more elaborately, drive a 5-foot stake at each hill, on each side of the rows, nail a piece of light wood or lath on the top of the stakes, and train the vines to these top cross-pieces with wire or heavy strings. While this mode takes more time, and may cost a little extra for lumber, it is really a matter of economy, for the plants may be set much closer together and the fruit is improved in appearance, quality and quantity, as well as ripening earlier.

This year I will try nitrate of soda on my tomato ground as an experiment. Will use, probably, about 100 pounds to the acre, at an estimated cost of \$2.50, with manure, and see if I can get an increase of 100 baskets per acre as some enthusiasts claim.

Last fall I read about a truck gardener in Texas who raised 1,700 crates of tomatoes from four acres, which he sold at 77 cents per crate, bringing him \$1,309 for his crop. His farm is in Arkansas county, Texas, but his name was not given in the account I read. I would like to see an article from him in The Journal of Agriculture, giving full particulars regarding his plan of culture, what fertilizers he used, if any, cost of marketing the crop, and other details. Such information will be a help to me and no doubt to many others, and our friend from Texas will confer a great favor by stepping into the limelight for a moment to tell us all about his wonderful crops.

There is money in tomatoes—if one knows how to raise them and isn't afraid of hard work. F.

Beaver county, Pa.

HOW TO GET RID OF TICKS.

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued a circular on "How To Get Rid of Cattle Ticks." Attention is called to the importance of active co-operation between local officials in various States south of the Texas fever quarantine line and the Bureau of Animal Industry for the purpose of eradicating ticks.

The eradication of ticks is believed to be possible if all suggested precautions are taken. Cattle and premises may be freed from ticks by hand picking the cattle and destroying the ticks, after which the cattle may be thoroughly greased. Infested cattle should be examined every other day, attention being given to the inside and back portion of the thighs, where the ticks are liable to be most numerous. For greasing the cattle, crude oil is recommended, or cotton-seed oil, fish oil or lard. Where a farmer owns but a few head of cattle, the cattle may be picketed on tick-free pasture and occasionally moved, taking care to avoid these localities for nine months thereafter. Another method recommended is to rotation system and requires two fields. The cattle are removed from the pasture by September 1 and no animals are allowed on this pasture until March 15 of the following year. Before the cattle are allowed to go back into the original pasture, they should be carefully examined for the presence of ticks.

PRESENTS.

Bracelets are among the most popular articles in jewelry this year. Neck chains and lockets are also much worn. Brooches, cuff pins, beauty pins and stick pins are always good. Rings never go out of style. Hat pins make useful and appreciated gifts. The Old Kentucky Home design being a very popular one. Cuff buttons for gentlemen, tie pins, watch chains and charms, secret order pins and buttons, and many other articles make acceptable gifts. At Conley's store you will find these things in solid gold and other qualities, guaranteed as represented.

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Coffins Delivered in Country.

People living in the country may order coffins or caskets from us by telephone or otherwise and we will deliver them at very small cost. We have a team that we can send out at any time and the expense will be slight. Snyder Hardware Company, Louisa, Ky.

A WONDERFUL HAPPENING.

Port Byron, New York, has witnessed one of the most remarkable cases of healing ever recorded. Amos F. King, of that place says: "Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured a sore on my leg with which I had suffered over 10 years. I am now eighty-five." Guaranteed to cure all sores, by A. M. Hughes, druggist, etc.

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It is hardly necessary to suggest the fitness of books for presents. Nothing makes more acceptable gifts than books.

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